

to Ohio tomorrow. It is my hope that Mr. Montgomery will work with them to help grow jobs here and not overseas.

Mr. Speaker, American auto suppliers deserve better from their government.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks, I have been going around my district visiting main streets and talking to small businesses, and they have been appreciative of the efforts we have made with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

But they recognize something else, and that is, even if the economy begins to come back, and we hope that that's happening, they understand that as small businesses, they're still grappling with the high cost of purchasing health insurance coverage. In fact, if you look at the 45 million Americans who currently lack insurance coverage in this country, about 28 million of them are employed by small businesses or are the proprietors of small businesses.

That's why I'm glad that the President's health care proposal building on the ideas in this Chamber addresses this important grievance that small businesses have and is designed to give them more access to an affordable health insurance market. That is absolutely critical for their long-term economic stability.

TESTIMONY ON THE UNITED WE FISH RALLY

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fishermen from South Carolina who are traveling to Washington to participate in the United We Fish rally tomorrow. They will join thousands of fishermen from across the east coast to protest against the recent red snapper and shallow-water grouper ban and the proposed closing of nearly 10,000 square miles in the South Atlantic.

The current ban not only threatens the jobs of recreation and commercial fishermen, but also small business owners that rely on the recreational fishing industry in coastal communities. Extending the ban would create further economic hardships in South Carolina as we currently suffer from one of the top five unemployment rates in the Nation.

As a representative of 75 percent of the coastline of South Carolina, I will join my constituents at the United We Fish rally and push Congress to pass

the Transparency in Job Loss from Fishery Closures Act of 2010, a comprehensive bill that instructs NOAA to reverse the harmful fisheries closures.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. This Thursday, something exciting is going to happen right down the street, Pennsylvania Avenue. The White House door is open. The leadership of both the Senate and the House, Democrat and Republican leadership, come together to talk about what Americans want to have happen: reform to health care.

Now, everyone knows that our health care system is failing, and it's failing for Democrats and Republicans and Independents and children and young and old and for people all across this country. And I'm excited that we're going to sit down and try to work things out in a compromise, because people need to have access to health care.

There are some principles that I've heard from the people that I represent back home. We must cover as many people as possible with affordable coverage. We must do away with discriminatory practices such as preexisting conditions and unfair practices such as caps and rescission. But most of all, people in Minnesota want a system that rewards quality and value. That's the best thing for taxpayers, the best thing for patients, and the best thing for America.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month and to recognize three leaders who have advanced the Nation's Historically Black Colleges, bringing opportunity and hope to many students, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

First, Xavier University president, Dr. Norman Francis. Dr. Francis is known for his effective leadership and his commitment to community. He has led the regeneration of the university and the surrounding neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Francis continues to be a voice in our recovery and an example of hope.

Dillard University president, Dr. Marvalene Hughes. In 2005, Dr. Hughes took the helm as Hurricane Katrina came ashore and nearly destroyed the school. Many would have left, but she took on the challenge of rebuilding and recovery, living in a hotel with her students for nearly a year. Under her leadership, Dillard's campus and the neighborhood have been revived and are thriving, and hope for a generation of students has been restored.

Finally, interim president of the Southern University System, Dr. Kassie Freeman. Dr. Freeman is an internationally recognized scholar in her own right. At the helm of the Nation's only Historically Black University System, she made Southern University's transition out of FEMA trailers and into permanent facilities a priority, insisting upon those students' continued education.

It is my honor to recognize these individuals' contributions to our Nation's history and to support them in their efforts in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, during the State of the Union message last month, the President reminded us that he inherited a true economic mess and that job losses have been reduced dramatically due to actions by the Democrats in this Congress and his administration.

At the end of the Bush years in January 2009, 800,000 Americans lost their jobs. But by contrast, after just 1 year of economic recovery policies from Democrats in this Congress and President Obama, 20,000 people lost their jobs in January 2010.

Make no mistake, any jobs lost are important to the people who have lost them. But we're on the road to recovery.

The philosophy that "a rising tide lifts all boats," though, does have its limitations. So we need an economic and industrial policy in this country that creates jobs for the future for the long term and to put those who are newly unemployed and the chronically unemployed back to work. In short, we need to embrace our clean energy future for sustained job creation, economic growth and innovation, and let's use our taxpayer dollars to buy American, to build American.

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JOBS AND PRODUCTIVITY

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. You know, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, those of us in government in our erudite debate forget that all economy is effectively productivity. That is what it is about. And the foundation of productivity in this country is jobs.

Since Democrats took control of this Chamber, almost 7 million jobs have been lost. A year ago, Mr. Obama and the Democrats passed a trillion-dollar stimulus which was supposed to solve the problem, but instead has left us with nearly a 10 percent unemployment rate.

Mr. Speaker, this left-wing Democrat notion that we can borrow, tax, and spend our way into economic prosperity should now be disproven thoroughly in the minds of any reasonable person. Yet we learn today that inexplicably this administration still plans to shove the monstrosity of government-controlled health care down the throats of the American people. This will raise costs, decrease quality, rob the American people of their God-given freedom, rob our children of their future, and it will cost America many, many more jobs, Mr. Speaker. Where will the madness end?

THE BENEFITS OF THE RECOVERY ACT

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. One year ago the economy was declining by 6 percent. Over 600,000 Americans month after month after month were losing their jobs, with no relief. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that this Democratic Congress ensured that we brought forward was enacted to ensure that President Obama and his commitment as well would jump-start our economy, that we would create and save 3.5 million jobs, that we would give 95 percent of Americans who needed assistance a tax cut that we would deliver, and finally, that we would rebuild America through our roads, our rail, and our water infrastructure.

When we look at America today, we are doing better than what we were doing a year ago, but we have more to do. The American Recovery Act helped us to create new infrastructure, to train teachers, hire educators, and to improve health care. But we are ready to do more.

FIRST DO NO HARM

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. The Hippocratic oath is well known for the phrase, "First do no harm." Unfortunately, we have continued to come down on this floor and ask a simple question. Where are the jobs? What business and industry needs is some certainty. What this Congress and administration continues to offer is more uncertainty, which translates into higher risks, which increases borrowing rates.

We should first do no harm. We should stop the government takeover of health care, which will raise rates and cost jobs. We should oppose a cap-and-trade scheme which will raise energy costs and destroy jobs. Shelving these two major Democratic proposals would do the most to return some certainty to the economy so business can work on maintaining and creating jobs.

AMERICA IS GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, if you would listen to the party opposite, you would not know that America is actually on a real trajectory for positive change in the area of jobs. When President Bush left office, for the last 3 months of his administration America was hemorrhaging jobs at the rate of 750,000 on average. And now, in January, only 22,000 jobs lost. Now we are going in the right direction.

You can't overturn and change over 8 years of Republican rule in simply a finger snap. But the Democratic Caucus is on its way to restoring this country to economic health. We have seen increases in GDP. We have seen increases in manufacturing. We have seen increases in significant indicators. And this country needs more help, but we are going in the right direction, which is something we were not doing when President Obama took office a year ago.

All the American people need to do is just look at the numbers. Things are getting better. And the message of doom and gloom can never match up to one of hope.

FOCUS ON JOBS

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week President Obama released his latest version of a government takeover of health care. And as you look at the details of his latest plan, it is not much different than the previous plans that the American people have continued to reject.

And while the American people are saying where are the jobs, and they want Congress to be focused on creating jobs, all that they get from this tone deaf liberal leadership is more government takeover, more taxes, and more policies that are running millions of jobs out of this country.

It is time that this liberal leadership start listening to the American people and work with those of us who have for months and months been saying we need to reduce the cost of health care, we need to address preexisting conditions, and we need to do common sense medical liability reform, and we need a focus on jobs instead of more taxes, more runaway spending, and more policies that are running jobs out of this country.

JOB CREATION AND HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we hear the question, should Congress be dealing

with job creation or with health care, as if these are unrelated. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed this past year, is already funding around this country an expansion of community health centers. It is funding already implementation and use of information technology in the health care fields. This is doctors' offices and hospitals, and in training the workers to use it. This provides, yes, jobs, as well as better health care for Americans.

In the health care legislation that is taking shape, based on the common principles of the House-passed and Senate-passed legislation, that too will lead to economic growth and jobs. In particular, not only will there be medical innovation, but it will assist small businesses and large with these large expenses they have in covering the health care of their employees. And less money will be wasted in exorbitant salaries and profits, and will actually go to providing health care.

OBAMACARE 2.0

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express disappointment with Obamacare 2.0. Apparently President Obama did not get the message Americans don't want a big government takeover of health care. This \$1 trillion health care bill is just more of the same: more spending, more taxes, and more government mandates. The American people want us to start over on health care, wipe the slate clean, and consider commonsense reforms that won't bankrupt our country.

But what Americans want the most of all are jobs. Where are the jobs? Government doesn't create jobs, but we can do things to allow the private sector to create jobs. We could do these three things: across the board tax cuts, increase domestic energy production, and stop the overregulation of business. Those three simple things would create jobs. If the President really wants to, this is where he should start.

CRITICIZING PROGRESS

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. If this wasn't so serious, it would be laughable. Eight years they had a chance, the other side here, to get this economy right. Eight years. And they are the ones that drove it into the ground and dares criticize when someone is turning it around so we are going in the right direction. Eight years. This didn't happen overnight when we started losing jobs. When President Bush left office we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. What did they do? Nothing.

Then you have President Obama come on board, started turning things